

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 03549 050407Z  
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 H-02  
IO-14 OES-09 /070 W

-----110250 060109Z /64

R 041110Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1036  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

UNCLAS COLOMBO 3549

JAKARTA FOR FATHER HESBURGH

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: TATT, OVIP (HESBURGH, THEODORE)  
SUBJ: HIGHLIGHTS OF FATHER HESBURGH'S VISIT TO SRI LANKA

REF: A. COLOMBO 3318 (NOTAL)  
B. STATE 168379  
C. STATE 144177

1. FATHER HESBURGH'S FIVE-DAY VISIT TO SRI LANKA WAS VERY  
SUCCESSFUL.

2. IN ADDITION TO HIS INTEREST IN SRI LANKA'S PREPARATION FOR  
THE UN CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT  
(UNCSTD), FATHER HESBURGH WANTED TO SEE FIRSTHAND WHY SRI LANKA  
RANKS SO HIGH ON THE OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL'S PHYSICAL  
QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX AND WHAT PROBLEMS THAT POSED TO THE COUNTRY.  
DURING HIS STAY, HE TALKED TO A WIDE SPECTRUM OF SRI LANKANS  
RANGING FROM PRESIDENT JAYEWARDENE TO FARMERS IN A SMALL VILLAGE  
OUTSIDE COLOMBO.

3. FOLLOWING A COURTESY CALL ON PRESIDENT JAYEWARDENE ON MONDAY,  
JULY 31, THE PRESIDENT, IN AN UNEXPECTED MOVE, REARRANGED HIS  
SCHEDULE AND HOSTED A LUNCH FOR FATHER HESBURGH ON AUGUST 3 ATTEND-  
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ED BY SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE CABINET. AT THE LUNCH, FATHER HESBURGH  
GAVE HIS HOSTS AN EXTENSIVE AND DETAILED DISCOURSE ON U.S. HOPES  
FOR THE UNCSTD NEXT YEAR AND COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON SRI LANKA'S  
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. THE PREVIOUS DAY HE HAD FLOWN OVER THE AREA  
OF THE MAHAWELI DIVERSION SCHEME AND WAS WELL INFORMED ON THE  
COUNTRY'S MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

4. FATHER HESBURGH ALSO MET WITH SRI LANKAN LEADERS IN THE FIELDS OF SCIENCE, EDUCATION, AND DEVELOPMENT, AND WITH PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY. HE GAVE A WELL-ATTENDED PUBLIC LECTURE ON AUGUST 3 AT THE BANDARANAIKE MEMORIAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE HALL ON THE SUBJECT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT. HE WAS BRIEFED ON THE SARVODAYA SCHRAMDANA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM BY A.T. ARIYARATNE AND VISITED A VILLAGE PROJECT 20 MILES NORTH OF COLOMBO.

5. COMMENT: PRESIDENT JAYEWARDENE'S DESIRE TO HEAR FURTHER FROM FATHER HESBURGH AT LUNCH WAS INDICATIVE OF THE EXCELLENT IMPRESSION FATHER HESBURGH MADE ON EVERYONE HE MET. HIS EXPOSITION IN SEVERAL DIFFERENT FORUMS OF THE POTENTIAL FOR USING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO ERADICATE WORLD POVERTY WAS LUCID AND WELL RECEIVED. FATHER HESBURGH'S KNOWLEDGE OF DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS IS IMPRESSIVE, AND HE WAS ABLE TO MAKE CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS TO SRI LANKAN OFFICIALS. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES FATHER HESBURGH MADE MANY FRIENDS FOR THE UNITED STATES DURING HIS STAY IN SRI LANKA.  
WRIGGINS

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## Message Attributes

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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Reference:** 78 COLOMBO 3318, 78 STATE 168379, 78 STATE 144177  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014